

Appl. No. 10/796,676
Amdt. dated April 21, 2006
Reply to Office action of January 30, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C.112, second paragraph as suggested by the examiner. It is believed that claims 1, 4-6 and 10-12 (as amended) are definite and particularly point out and distinctively claim applicant's invention.

It is submitted the words "plurality" in claims 10 and 11 provide antecedent basis for the plural form of "pallet combinations" and "paperboard containers". In any event, it is believed these claims are clear and definite and define the invention sufficiently to allow one reading the claims to know their scope and meaning.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 4-6 over the De Pew et al. reference is requested. There is no teaching in the cited art of any advantage of removing any of the top stringers of De Pew et al. as suggested by the examiner. It is submitted that this modification of De Pew et al. only results from knowledge of applicant's invention and is an improper hindsight rejection. There is no suggestion of any advantage of such modification in the De Pew et al. patent and only after reading applicant's disclosure can reason for such modification come to mind.

Thus, it is not so much removing a part and its function, but, rather modifying a structure and obtaining an unobvious result. There is no teaching, save for applicant's own, of the aligned four openings in the top and bottom of a pallet which allow rolls with

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protruding cores to be places on either side of the pallet such that the protruding core fits into the openings in either side of the pallet. This unobvious result is not suggested in the De Pew et al. patent, which as noted in an earlier paper, is directed to providing a draft barrier in a pallet to deter flow of flames through the stacked pallets.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the application with 11 claims, namely claims 1, 4-13, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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